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**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/766,055

Examiner

Dameon E. Levi

Applicant(s)

BELL ET AL.

Art Unit

2841

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE (10/15/2007) Interview(12/13/2007).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 12/13/2007.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Shane Hunter (Reg. No. 41858) on 12/13/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### AMEND CLAIM 1 AS FOLLOWS:

1. (Currently Amended) A rack-mountable in-line surge protection system comprising:  
a chassis ~~configured to mount~~ that mounts to an equipment rack, the chassis including:  
an electrically-conductive buss;  
an electrically-conductive ground member coupled to the buss and ~~configured and disposed to be connected~~ and that connects to a grounding mechanism with the grounding mechanism received by the ground member; and a plurality of electrically-conductive bias members coupled to the buss; and  
a plurality of surge-protection modules ~~configured to be~~ removably inserted into and coupled to the chassis, the modules each including a printed circuit board and first and second receptacles for receiving

connectors and coupling the connectors to the circuit board, the circuit boards each including a grounding contact portion and surge protection circuitry that inhibits an electrical surge received at the first receptacle from reaching the second receptacle;

~~wherein the chassis and the modules are configured such that~~ the circuit boards are disposed between respective bias members when inserted in the chassis, with the grounding contact portion of each circuit board in electrical contact with at least a respective one of the bias members.

**AMEND CLAIM 2 AS FOLLOWS:**

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the chassis is ~~configured with~~ includes a plurality of guides for guiding the printed circuit boards of the modules into the chassis and in between the bias members.

**AMEND CLAIM 8 AS FOLLOWS:**

3. (Currently Amended) A chassis for use in a rack of electronic data communications equipment and with modules configured for data communications, the chassis comprising:  
a housing ~~configured to provide~~ that provides a plurality of openings sized and shaped to receive the modules, and ~~configured to be mounted that~~ mounts in the rack;

an electrically-conductive buss coupled to the housing and extending along a length of the housing;

an electrically-conductive ground member<sub>1</sub> coupled to the buss<sub>1</sub> and ~~configured and disposed to be connected~~ that connects to a grounding mechanism with the grounding mechanism received by the ground member; and

a plurality of electrically-conductive bias members<sub>1</sub> coupled to the buss<sub>1</sub> that directly contact and are biased against grounding contact portions of respective circuit boards of the modules with the modules received by the chassis.

**AMEND CLAIM 20 AS FOLLOWS:**

4. (Currently Amended) A rack-mountable in-line surge protection system comprising:
- a chassis ~~configured to mount~~ that mounts to an equipment rack, the chassis providing a grounding network from an interior of the chassis to a terminal ~~configured to be connected~~ that connects to by an external ground connector when the connector is received by the terminal; and
- a plurality of modules ~~configured to be repeatedly inserted~~ that releasably insert into ~~and removed from~~ the chassis, the modules each being ~~configured to connect~~ connecting to a plurality of data line connectors when inserted into the chassis, the modules providing a surge-protected

electrical connection between the plurality of connectors connected to each module that becomes disconnected in response to an electrical surge;

wherein the modules and the chassis inhibit separation of the modules and the chassis with the modules urged to separate from the chassis, and allow separation of the modules from the chassis upon application of at least a threshold separation force.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

**Claims 1-24 are allowable.**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In response to remarks and claim amendments made in Applicant's Request for Continued Examination submitted 10/15/2007, as well as, an Interview with Applicant's Representative on 12/13/2007, the summary attached herewith, and, upon conclusion of a comprehensive search of the pertinent prior art, the Office indicates that the claims, as amended, are allowable.

**Regarding independent claim 1**, patentability exists, at least in part, with the claimed features of the modules each including a printed circuit board and first and second receptacles for receiving connectors and coupling the connectors to the circuit board, the circuit boards each including a grounding contact portion and surge protection circuitry that inhibits an electrical surge received at the first receptacle from reaching the second receptacle; wherein the circuit boards are disposed between respective bias

members when inserted in the chassis, with the grounding contact portion of each circuit board in electrical contact with at least a respective one of the bias members.

**Regarding independent claim 8**, patentability exists, at least in part, with the claimed features of an electrically-conductive ground member, coupled to the buss, that connects to a grounding mechanism with the grounding mechanism received by the ground member; and a plurality of electrically-conductive bias members, coupled to the buss, that directly contact and are biased against grounding contact portions of respective circuit boards of the modules with the modules received by the chassis.

**Regarding independent claim 14**, patentability exists, at least in part, with the claimed features of wherein the receptacles disposed such that connectors received by the receptacles will electrically couple to the input and the output, respectively, of the circuit board, the housing including an inhibiting member that interferes with a portion of the chassis with the module received by the chassis to inhibit separation of the module from the chassis.

**Regarding independent claim 20**, patentability exists, at least in part, with the claimed features of the modules providing a surge-protected electrical connection between the plurality of connectors connected to each module that becomes disconnected in response to an electrical surge; wherein the modules and the chassis inhibit separation of the modules and the chassis with the modules urged to separate from the chassis, and allow separation of the modules from the chassis upon application of at least a threshold separation force.

The pertinent prior art, taken alone, or, in combination, cannot be construed as teaching or suggesting all of the elements of the claimed invention as arranged, disposed, and provided in the manner as claimed by the Applicants.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dameon E. Levi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2105. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. (9:00 - 5:00) IFP, Fridays Telework.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Dameon E Levi  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2841

DEL



TUAN T. DINH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

12/21/07